

CLAIMS

The below listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims.

1. (currently amended) A method performed by a gaming device comprising:

providing a player with an opportunity to place a variety of bet amounts on an outcome of a single primary game, the variety of bet amounts including a minimum bet and a maximum bet;

generating an outcome of at least one jackpot winning outcome and non-jackpot winning outcomes;

offering a plurality of N different jackpots to a player that the player has the potential of winning in a single primary game upon achieving a jackpot winning outcome with a maximum bet; and

awarding a number of the different jackpots, including 1 through N jackpots, to a player for a jackpot winning outcome in a current game based on an amount bet by the player for the current game, such that a player betting an amount larger than the minimum bet and achieving a jackpot winning outcome will be awarded a sum of multiple ones of the different jackpots, where the number of the different jackpots summed is based on the amount bet.
2. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein generating an outcome of a primary game comprises displaying at least one row and multiple columns of symbols, wherein combinations of symbols across one or more paylines determine the jackpot winning outcomes and the non-jackpot winning outcomes.
3. (original) The method of Claim 2 wherein there are three rows and five columns of symbols in the primary game.

4. (original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising incrementing the plurality of jackpots based on, at least in part, the occurrence of certain icons displayed in the primary game.
5. (original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising incrementing the plurality of jackpots based on, at least in part, a percentage of wagers bet by one or more players.
6. (original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

detecting a number of credits bet on a primary game, wherin awarding a number of jackpots comprises awarding a number of jackpots equal to the number of credits bet for the primary game.
7. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the plurality of jackpots comprises visible jackpots that may be won by a player for a current game and hidden jackpots that may be won by a player in future games.
8. (original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising replacing the number of jackpots won with one or more other jackpot amounts.
9. (original) The method of Claim 8 wherein the other jackpot amounts comprise hidden jackpot amounts that were not visible to the player in the previous game.
10. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein awarding a number of jackpots comprises awarding the plurality of jackpots to the player when the primary game generates a jackpot winning outcome and the player makes a the maximum bet.
11. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the plurality of jackpots comprises progressive jackpots incremented over time.
12. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the gaming device is one of a plurality of gaming devices having a common plurality of jackpots.
13. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the gaming device comprises a stand-alone gaming machine, and the plurality of jackpots apply for that gaming device only.

14. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the primary game comprises displaying a plurality of symbols in at least one row and in multiple columns, each jackpot being associated with a column, the method further comprising incrementing a jackpot associated with a particular column when a jackpot-incrementing symbol is displayed in that column.
15. (original) The method of Claim 14 wherin, after awarding a number of jackpots, remaining jackpot amounts are shifted to different columns.
16. (currently amended) A gaming device comprising:

a display screen for receiving signals from a processor for displaying images; and

a processor, the processor being programmed to carry out the process of:

providing a player with an opportunity to place a variety of bet amounts on an outcome of a single primary game, the variety of bet amounts including a minimum bet and a maximum bet;

generating an outcome of a the primary game, the primary game generating at least one jackpot winning outcome and non-jackpot winning outcomes;

offering a plurality of N different jackpots to a player that the player has the potential of winning in a single primary game upon achieving a jackpot winning outcome with a maximum bet; and

awarding a number of the different jackpots, including 1 through N jackpots, to a player for a jackpot winning outcome in a current game based on an amount bet by the player for the current game, such that a player betting an amount larger than the minimum bet and achieving a jackpot winning outcome will be awarded a sum of multiple ones of the different jackpots, where the number of the different jackpots summed is based on the amount bet.

17. (original) The device of Claim 16 wherein awarding a number of jackpots comprises awarding the same number of jackpots as credits bet for the current game.
18. (currently amended) A method performed by a gaming device comprising:
- generating an outcome of a primary game, the primary game generating at least one jackpot winning outcome and non-jackpot winning outcomes, wherein the primary game comprises displaying a plurality of symbols in at least one row and in multiple N columns, where N is at least three;
- offering a plurality of N different jackpots to a player, each jackpot being associated with a different single column; and
- incrementing a jackpot associated with a particular column when a jackpot-incrementing symbol is displayed in that column; and
- awarding at least one of the N jackpots to a player upon the player achieving a jackpot winning outcome.
19. (original) The method of Claim 18 further comprising awarding a number of jackpots to a player for a jackpot winning outcome in a current game based on an amount bet by the player for the current game.
20. (original) The method of Claim 18 where the jackpot incrementing symbol is a value.
21. (currently amended) A method performed by a gaming device comprising:
- generating an outcome of a primary game, the primary game generating jackpot winning outcomes and non-jackpot winning outcomes;
- offering a plurality of N different jackpots to a player, each jackpot being associated with a certain jackpot winning outcome of the primary game, such that any of the N jackpots may be won in a single game;

incrementing the plurality of jackpots based on, at least in part, the occurrence of certain icons displayed in the primary game; and

awarding one or more of the jackpots to a player in response to the certain jackpot winning outcome occurring in a current game.